September Newsletter

**5th Grade Chit-Chat**

**Reading**: The students have been very busy in reading! They have learned how to create good 5th grade post-it notes, which contain their great thinking while they read. They have also learned how to write a summary/response, which they write after they have finished reading a book. Students are required to write at least three summary/responses a marking period and have ten well written post-it notes for each book. The students have really enjoyed reading in class and love to share their books with their reading partner.

For our read aloud we are reading Maniac Magee, which is by Jerry Spinelli. The students are fascinated by the main character's journey to find his place in a town controlled by segregation.

**Writing**: In writing students started their first class writing piece, which is a personal narrative. I have seen great improvements in the student’s drafts and they are becoming great writers! The students have focused on using great leads, separating their writing into good paragraphs, and expanding their paragraphs to add more detail. Next we need to focus on how to create a great ending to their writing!

***Upcoming Events in October to look out for…***

*-International Walk to School Day Pedestrian Safety Event*

*-Red Ribbon Week*

*-Picture Day*

*The first marking period midterm is today, Friday September 30. Midterm grades will be handed out Wednesday of next week. They will need to be signed returned.*



***Odds and Ends…***

I have added more material to my class wiki space. If you go to the website you will find lots of useful material for students, as well as parents. I have added such things as information about homework, a class calendar, and different documents for reading workshop. I have also added a section labeled class news where I will post information on Fridays about what we focused on in class that week, along with other important information.

***Reminders****…*

\*Students should be working on their spelling packet every night. Spelling packets are given out on Monday and handed in on a Friday. With this homework students should focus on following directions.

When given a PAW writing assignment or a current event assignment students should focus on the rubrics that are used to grade the assignments. This will help focus their work and make sure that they completed everything necessary.

Students should be practicing multiplication facts at home. It is very important that they master all of their facts in order to be successful in math.

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**5th Grade Chit-Chat**

**Continued…**

**Math**: Earlier in the month we focused on rounding. To help the students remember the rules for rounding we sung a rounding rap. Students also learned how to find approximate answers by using estimation. We are now focusing on prime and composite numbers. Students will learn about factorization next week. Students will also start working on solving word problems based on model drawing.

**Social Studies**-The students are really enjoying learning about the states, their capitals and abbreviations. Everyday we sing our States and Capital song together and the students sound great! Next week the students will focus on their last region, which is the west. The students will then have to start preparing for their states test, which contains all 50 states, capitals, and abbreviations. Students have started a social studies project in class where they research a state with a partner and create a poster and brochure with the information they found. It is up to the students to provide a poster for the project. The 5th graders will then have a social studies fair where they will teach others about their state.

**Science-** Social studies was the main focus for the first half of the marking period. For the second half we will focus on science. Students will learn about landforms and participate in different hands on activities.